

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS

GENERAL HOSPITAL,

FOR THE YEAR

1845.



BOSTON:

1846.

EASTBURN'S PRESS.

Annual Report

1900-1901



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REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL,
PRESENTED TO
THE CORPORATION, AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING,
JANUARY, 1846.

THE Committee of the Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, appointed to examine into the financial affairs of the Institution, as shown by the Treasurer's books and vouchers, and also to lay before the Corporation a statement of its general condition, as it appears by the records of the Superintendents of the Hospital, and of the Asylum for the Insane, and from their own personal observation, respectfully present the following report.

The Treasurer's account current for the year ending December 31, 1845, which is herewith presented, has been carefully examined by the Committee, and found to be correctly cast and properly vouched. The present amount of the property of the Institution, exclusive of the grounds and buildings, is \$238,369 91, as shown by the schedule which is also presented herewith. All of this, with the exception of a balance in cash of \$15,383 18, is well invested, and rated at its fair value, and the evidences

of the same have all been examined by the Committee. A part of the amount consists of the unexpended balance of the sum subscribed for the enlargement of the Hospital in Allen street, and will be absorbed in the completion and furnishing of the two new wings. The generous spirit manifested by our community, in a subscription of over sixty thousand dollars for that purpose, was so far from being exhausted, that the Trustees have again to present their acknowledgements for an instance of individual liberality, well nigh approaching it in magnitude. The most prominent item in the schedule, which does not appear in that of the preceding year, is the sum of forty thousand dollars, the munificent bequest of the late Daniel Waldo, Esq., of Worcester, which has lately been received from John Tappan, Esq., one of his executors.

The receipts of the Institution from various sources, during the past year, have somewhat exceeded its expenses, much of the income having been derived from a dividend of extra profits paid by the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company. The current expenses, however, will in future be very much increased, as the enlargement of the Hospital, when completed, will enable us to receive nearly three times the present number of patients.

Col. John M. Goodwin, who for many years past had filled the office of Superintendent of the Hospital, died in November last, after a short and severe illness. The Trustees take this occasion to bear testimony to the fidelity and devotion to the interests of the Hospital, which he manifested throughout the period of his connection with it. During his illness his place was temporarily supplied by Dr. Holman, the house apothecary, and it has since been permanently filled by the appointment of Capt. Richard Girdler, who entered upon his duties on the first day of December last. By this appointment the Trustees, to some of whom he has long been known, believe that they have secured the services of a gentleman per-

fectly qualified, by his zeal and ability, to promote the welfare of the Institution.

The Report of Capt. Girdler, which embraces the whole year, that of Dr. Bell, Superintendent and Physician of the McLean Asylum, and also the Report of Mr. Tyler, the Steward of the same, exhibiting the balances of his several accounts, are herewith presented.

From the Report of Capt. Girdler, it appears that in the year 1845, there were admitted into the Hospital 453 patients, of whom 289 were males and 164 females. Of this number 205 were discharged well, and 130 more or less relieved. The proportion of deaths to the whole number of results was one in twelve.

There were 62 cases of admission after recent accidents.

The average number of patients was 30 males and 26 females, total 56. Of these the average number of paying patients was 22, and of free patients 34.

The expenses of the Hospital amounted to \$16,090 73, which is \$2,926 30 more than in the year 1844. Of this excess, about \$400 were for furniture and \$800 for medicine, including a thorough refitting of the apothecary's shop. The remainder is principally accounted for by the increased cost of fuel and provisions, and by some addition to the number of attendants which circumstances rendered necessary.

The average weekly expenses for each patient in 1845, was \$5 52.

The Report of Dr. Bell gives a highly satisfactory account of the state of the Asylum for the Insane. It has been filled to the extent of its capacity; and in the relief which it is constantly giving to that interesting class of patients and to their friends, we believe that it is fully accomplishing the benevolent purpose of its founders and patrons.

The average number of patients during the past year, has been very nearly one hundred and fifty; one hundred

and nineteen were admitted, and one hundred and twenty discharged. Of the latter number seventy-four had recovered, thirteen died, and thirty-three were removed by their friends, in various stages of disease or convalescence, and after various periods of residence, from many years to a single day.

The expenses of the Asylum, as appears by the statement of Mr. Tyler, were \$26,104 85, which is very nearly the same amount as in the year preceding.

The enlargement of the Hospital in Allen street, though not completed, is in a state of great forwardness. The West wing will probably be ready for occupancy in about a month. The East wing is finished externally, and the in door work is now in progress. The furniture of both wings has been ordered, and will probably be in readiness as soon as needed.

An increase in the number of medical and surgical officers attached to the Institution, will be rendered necessary by its increased extent; and this subject, together with some changes in the general rules and regulations, required for the same reason, is now receiving the earnest attention of the Trustees.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES S. STORROW, }
CHARLES AMORY, } *Committee.*

Boston, January, 1846.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE HOSPITAL IN ALLEN STREET,
BOSTON, FOR THE YEAR 1845.

*Admitted to the Massachusetts General Hospital, from
January 1, 1845, to January 1, 1846.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients paying board, - -	134	42	176
do. do. part of time, -	4	8	12
do. entirely free, -	151	114	265
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	289	164	453

Of these 136 paid \$3; 21 paid \$4; 25 paid \$6; 5 paid \$10; 1 paid \$12; total, 188.

Discharged during the year.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Well, - - - - -	129	76	205
Much relieved, - - - - -	34	27	61
Relieved, - - - - -	44	25	69
Not relieved, - - - - -	20	17	37
Not treated, - - - - -	13	7	20
Eloped, - - - - -	1	1	2
Unfit, - - - - -	6	0	6
Dead, - - - - -	38	16	54
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	285	169	454

Proportion of deaths to the whole number of results,
1 in 12.

Greatest number of patients at any one visit in private rooms, 8; greatest number of paying patients 34; of free patients, 44; greatest total, 72; least number in private rooms, 2; least paying, 11; free, 26; least total, 37. Number of accidents admitted during the year, 62; many of which proved fatal.

Average number of patients, 30 males, 26 females; total, 56. Average number of paying patients, 15 American and 7 Foreign; total, 22.

Greatest number of paying patients, 17 American and 17 Foreign.

Least number paying patients, 6 American and 5 Foreign.

<i>Analysis of Patients.</i>					Pay.	Free.	Part of time paying.
Males—Mechanics,	-	-	-	-	41	50	
Laborers, -	-	-	-	-	16	39	1
Farmers, -	-	-	-	-	15	10	1
Mariners, -	-	-	-	-	17	9	
Traders, -	-	-	-	-	12	2	
Clerks, -	-	-	-	-	9	4	
Minors, -	-	-	-	-	7	18	
Students, -	-	-	-	-	4	2	
Clergymen, -	-	-	-	-	2	1	
Army and Naval Officers, -	-	-	-	-	4		
Domestics, -	-	-	-	-	1	4	
Teamsters, -	-	-	-	-	5	4	
Coachmen, -	-	-	-	-		1	
Teachers, -	-	-	-	-	1	2	
Physicians, -	-	-	-	-	3		
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					137	146	2

Total Males, 285. Of this number, 48 were in private rooms

				Pay.	Free.	Part of time paying.
Females—Domestics,	-	-	-	14	62	
Spinsters,	-	-	-	6	5	
Wives, -	-	-	-	15	15	2
Widows,	-	-	-	4	7	
Nurses -	-	-	-	1	2	
Cooks, -	-	-	-	1	3	
Seamstresses,	-	-	-	3	8	
Factory Girls,	-	-	-	1	1	
Teachers,	-	-	-	2	2	
Minors,	-	-	-	2	12	
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				49	117	2

Total females, 168. Of these, 4 were in private rooms.

One-quarter of the free patients were female domestics, one seventh were male laborers, all of whom, except 7, were Irish.

Average time of ward paying patients, is 5 4-7 weeks, and of free patients, 6 6-7 weeks.

Proportion of Ward beds occupied by free patients, a fraction less than two to one.

Annual Expenses for 1845.

Stores,	-	-	-	-	\$5,383 09
Contingencies,	-	-	-	-	68 78
Wages,	-	-	-	-	4,131 05
Fuel, -	-	-	-	-	1,866 01
Furniture, -	-	-	-	-	1,170 94
Medicine, -	-	-	-	-	2,051 81
Repairs, -	-	-	-	-	477 78
Stationery, -	-	-	-	-	69 27
Grounds, -	-	-	-	-	22 00
Salaries, -	-	-	-	-	850 00
					<hr/>
					\$16,090 73

The whole amount of board charged to all the patients during the year, was \$9,635 44; of this sum, there was charged to the Trustees for the board of free patients, \$5,924 65; and the balance, 3,710 79, has been received from paying patients.

If the gross amount of the annual expense be divided by the average number of patients, it will give \$5 52½ for the weekly expense of each patient.

RICHARD GIRDLER, *Superintendent.*

To the Board of Trustees.

TWENTY-EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE PHYSICIAN AND SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE
MCLEAN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,
TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL.

THE Physician and Superintendent of the McLean Asylum for the Insane, has the honor, in conformity to the regulation, requiring him to lay before your Board, previously to each annual meeting, "a general view of the institution and of its results for the whole year," to submit the following Report.

The whole number of patients which has been under its care has been two hundred and seventy-one; one hundred and thirty-nine males, and one hundred and thirty-two females. Of these, one hundred and fifty-two, seventy-five males and seventy-seven females, were in the house at the expiration of the last year, and one hundred and nineteen, sixty-four males and fifty-five females have been admitted during the present.

One hundred and twenty patients, sixty-one males and fifty-nine females have been removed, leaving at the present period, one hundred and fifty-one inmates, seventy-eight of whom are males and seventy-three females.

Of those who have left the institution, thirty-nine males and thirty-five females, a total of seventy-four, have been considered as having regained their usual de-

gree of health of mind, or as is commonly expressed in reports of Insane Hospitals, have *recovered*, or been *cured*. Six, two males and four females, have undergone such decided change for the better, as to rank under our class of *much improved*; eight, four of each sex have made that lesser degree of progress known as *improvement* simply; eighteen, seven males and eleven females, have been removed without apparent benefit as far as restoration of mental soundness is regarded, and thirteen, nine males and four females, have deceased, mostly from chronic affections of many years standing. One female, laboring under typhoid fever has been entered on the register as *unfit*.

A more general recapitulation of results would be, that of one hundred and twenty patients discharged, seventy-four have recovered, thirteen have died and thirty-three have been removed by their friends, in accordance with their own views of convenience and expediency solely, in various degrees of change from being stationary to a most promising prospect of convalescence, and after various periods of residence, from many years, to a single day.

It may, perhaps, be proper to refer for the correct understanding of any who may not be acquainted with the constitution of the Asylum, to the well known fact, that so far as its admission and removal of patients are concerned, its character is that of a *private* institution. Patients are received and dismissed by the act of their own friends and relatives, without the intervention of judicial process, the rules of the General Hospital and the system of inspection established by its Charter, affording an entire guaranty against the possibility of its purposes being misused.

The extent of the operations of the Asylum during the past year has been to some degree limited by the amount of accommodations, the average number having been more than its apartments would conveniently receive.

The average household of patients, as determined by

the weekly record of the Visiting Committee has been for each month as follows: January, 152; February, 154; March, 158; April, 150; May, 148; June, 140; July, 145; August, 150; September, 147; October, 145; November, 149; December, 151, or during the entire year, a small fraction less than one hundred and fifty.

Having fully recognized in the experience of former years, before the latest enlargement of our accommodations, the fact which indeed is sufficiently obvious from the slightest reflection, that every patient beyond a complement, occasions a greater amount of inconvenience and drawback upon the comforts and benefits of the whole, than would be compensated for by the aid to any single individual, there has been no hesitation in giving other direction to applicants when the accommodations for the sex required were full.

Formerly, in the dearth of institutions, when the question was between receiving a patient notwithstanding the disadvantages to all of an over crowded house, or denying the privileges of hospital treatment to a case, perhaps eminently requiring it, there was a pressing motive to avoid refusing any application, and for years under this anxiety, our attendants were deprived of such personal accommodations as their arduous services demanded. Since, however, the accommodations for the insane in New England have been enlarged, to a greater or less degree of suitableness, sixfold at least, since our last extension was made, there really exists no apology for crowding an institution beyond its most advantageous limit.

Reasons urged in past years in the annual Reports, and more frequently and fully to individuals interested in the Asylum, and the cause of provision for the insane, continue to obtain in my judgment, against any greater aggregation of patients under my direction than the present number. While my views remain unchanged as to any extent of numbers, it is probable that your atten-

tion may at some early period be called to the expediency of providing for an "associated dormitory" for male patients, either by adding a third story to the building known as the Retreat, or by some other modification of the present buildings. The system of placing a certain small proportion of insane patients, especially the timid, the occasionally suicidal, the feeble, those giving way to excitement or to mischievous habits when solitary, but controlling themselves when in the presence of others and the like, in large well ventilated dormitories, with one or more attendants sleeping or watching, as circumstances may require, in the same apartment, has been widely adopted in institutions abroad of all grades of patients, and undoubtedly, carried to its proper proportion, has many advantages. For the last two years, the large and beautiful hall surmounted by the dome of the Belknap ward, has been applied to this purpose, as regards the female patients, and the experiment has proved fully successful.

As the regulations of your Board fortunately do not require any numerically arranged expressions of opinion, on the part of your Superintendent as to the phases, causes and other relations of disease, he does not feel that he would be adding either to exact science or valuable popular information, by endeavoring to force approximations of his own impressions or the vague opinions and often inconsistent recollections of friends, into the semblance of *mathematical data*.

The general tenor of affairs with us, has proceeded so much without incident or circumstance worthy of note, as to leave little to be communicated to you. While satisfied to allow what appears to be sufficiently well in moral and medical treatment, to go on smoothly and regularly without undue anxiety to make changes in matters of tried experience or hazard mere experiments, which often are calculated to attract some notoriety and interest at first, but in the end do not prove to be permanent improvements, the endeavor has been made not to stand still in

the march of improvement, but to keep a constant watch upon the great movements which have marked the last four or five years in Europe as regards the insane. Institutions with different classes of inmates, or under other differences of circumstances, require very various adaptation of means. Occupations, amusements, privileges, which might be very useful and valuable in one, are perhaps liable to insuperable objections in another.

The ready communication of modern days with the old world, has enabled a constant and friendly intercourse to be maintained with the heads of many of their insane institutions, where every aid of capital, talent, philanthropy and experience has been so lavishly provided of late, to carry the moral and medical treatment of insanity to its highest point. Indeed, it is manifest, that if we would hope to keep our institutions up to the recent level of those of England, France and Germany, it must be done by unremitting activity, by never resting satisfied with present attainments, and by keeping the community well advised of the absolute necessity of liberal means to meet this great end. No temporizing policy should conceal from it the fact, that hospitals for the insane with insufficient, ultra economical support must have a constant tendency to degenerate into *insane poor houses*.

Among modern attempts to improve the management of the insane in Great Britain, the disuse of all measures of muscular restraint, takes a prominent place and has in its various aspects and relations, been the topic of much valuable and much discreditable discussion in that country. My views in regard to the inexpediency of laying down the abolition of restraints of this description, as an invariable law in all institutions, and in a country, like ours, where no popular sentiment, originating in abuses demands such a course, have been fully presented in the Reports of former years. No reason has presented itself, as these measures have been matured and tested by time, for any essential change of opinion, although I am will-

ing to admit that it has been found expedient to make the exceptions to a general rule of this kind, far less numerous than formerly would have been believed practicable, in an institution having always a ratio of active cases so much greater than the foreign hospitals, and *in a country where the type of disease, on an average, is so much more intense than in Europe.*

Personal exchange of opinion with many of those abroad, who have identified themselves with this measure, has led to the conviction that the differences of views for and in opposition to the rule of non-restraint, have not been so wide and irreconcilable, as they would appear to be in a controversial contest, to an unimpassioned searcher for truth. No practical man there, would probably be found who would wish to go so far as to say, that there is no case in which muscular restraint might not be the wisest and kindest measure to be adopted. The sentiment appears to be rather this: *that the dangers of occasional unfortunate results from omitting restraints to the insane hitherto thought to require them, are less on the whole, than the objections to their use and the hazards of abuse, if employed by delegated authority, as must be the case in the extensive foreign hospitals, if they are used at all.*

Acting on this principle, and not from the belief, as would be supposed from the broad statements of some of the writers on this subject more controversial than practical, that under no circumstances restraint would be the wisest and kindest measure, the larger institutions of Great Britain have to a general degree, adopted non-restraint. The smaller and private institutions, under the same considerations, have not so generally acceded to the adoption of this as an absolute rule, although the trial and success of the measure have had a great influence on this class of Asylums.

In the last annual Report, the results of the efforts here to bring the use of restraining measures to a smaller limit

were presented. It was there stated that during the three quarters of the year, after a memorandum of the fact was entered upon, a single application of restraint was made on the male side of the house, viz., a muff to the hands of a man afflicted with a violent propensity to destroy his eyes, and in a few instances to females. During the present year, a continuance of the same memorandum, affords the gratifying information, that a single patient only has been placed under any restraint of this kind and that to guard against the hazard of self-destruction, which the ordinary means of watching by the presence of an attendant were not adequate to prevent. An epileptic young man, has, at times, sat in Dr. Rush's *tranquilizing* chair, (an arm chair with a board across the front,) to prevent sudden falls.

While thus able to present almost a clear page as regards restraining measures, I do not recede from the views formerly expressed of the inexpediency of a dogmatic or exclusive rule, especially if that rule is *to be known by patients as a law of the institution, and mischievous advantage taken of it*, which as I found, was a source of great inconvenience in the institutions of Great Britain. Yet I do not believe that the use of restraining measures to control the muscular movements of patients, in this institution will probably ever exceed two or three cases per annum.

Such an abolition of restraints as this, of course, involves a considerable increase of expense in providing attendants, as well as of destruction of clothing. But it ought not to be forgotten as one of the alleged and evidently natural results of it, that it arouses and matures the sagacity, patience and kindness of all in immediate charge of patients in interesting, occupying and calming them, and thus in preventing their giving way to acts of extravagance, frenzy or listless mischief. The attendant who knows that his labors and patience are not to be

relieved by restraints to the troublesome, has a before unknown stimulus to exertion.

I ought not to pass this important subject, without expressing my high sense of gratification that my wishes to dispense not only with restraining measures, but with every other coercive appliance formerly deemed indispensable, such for example, as the administration of food to patients intending starvation from suicidal propensity or delusion, have been so fully and perseveringly seconded by the respective Supervisors of the male and female departments, Mr. Goodhue and Miss Barber. Upon them, as charged with the immediate duties connected with the care and minute moral management devolves of course, much of the labor of effecting such results as these. Without such coöperation these improvements could not have been maintained. With regard to this latter anxious item in the cares of an Asylum for the insane, I have almost arrived at an opinion of Sir William Ellis, formerly regarded as hyperbolical, in his work on insanity, that there exists no case of voluntary abstinence from food which cannot be overcome by moral measures. A few cases of conscientious delusion in martyr-like spirits, must still be excepted.

While a reference to the register of the Asylum shows that the general ratio of all cases recovered has not probably in any previous year exceeded the present, we are satisfied that our means of treatment as regards difficult and chronic cases, have never before afforded so successful a result. While fully aware of the hazard of viewing simple coincidences as actual consequences, and making due allowance for those advantages which even the worst improved experience could not wholly avoid, I cannot resist the impression that we owe much in recent success to the abundant and progressive addition of what may be called minor means, to those formerly thought as complete as the nature of a hospital for the insane would permit, without risk of injury or wanton increase of ex-

pense. I refer especially to the introduction of all those items of household comfort and luxury, to which the patient may have been accustomed at home, such as better furniture, more extensive means of riding, more books, periodicals, &c. to all capable of enjoying them. The safety of more expensive furnishings was illustrated last year. Our experience still shows that carpets, curtains, paper hangings, pictures, &c. are as safe as far as three quarters of the female patients are concerned, as in a private house, and that no additional expense has accrued from mischievous or accidental destruction of these than of the usual coarse and strong articles.

In a curative point of view, an attention to these matters which some might have regarded as fastidious or exaggerated, has been well rewarded. It is true, that provision of articles of mere elegance, will not compensate for the absence of competent medical and moral direction, —of suitable architectural means of classification and inspection, or of intelligent, friendly and faithful attendants and nurses. Having these in an abundance only measured by the extent to which they can be advantageously employed, as indispensable, we are then able to appreciate the value of other auxiliary means, more especially in the treatment of difficult and chronic cases. A certain class of patients, suffering under disease the most prominent feature of which is high excitement and of recent duration, if early subjected to almost any place of safe keeping and removed from all external sources of irritation, recover spontaneously from the efforts of the constitution; —other individuals again are constitutionally or habitually unobserving of and indifferent to minor surrounding accidents of their position, so that if kept in the plainest and least expensive manner, as much may be done for them as if boundless cost was lavished upon them.

But there is still another large class of inmates and these often the most valuable to their families and to society, the most refined, and most calculated to awaken

the warmest sympathies, especially females accustomed at some or every period of their lives to the enjoyment of the highest order of comforts, to whom their absence is a perpetually operating source of irritation, uneasiness and wounded self esteem, calculated to prejudice the hope of recovery, or if their residence be custodial merely, to maintain a state of the feelings most unpropitious to that maximum of happiness as much the end of an Asylum to them, as cure to the curable.

If the masculine mind of the philosopher or the man of the world, as experience shows us is so often true, in slight bodily indisposition, be unable calmly to bear the removal of accustomed conveniences and luxurious comforts and is the victim of restlessness, peevishness and fretfulness, less easy to be reduced under the dominion of the judgment and the will, than the effect of absolutely considerable misfortunes, what ought to be expected of the nervously afflicted invalid, with morbidly intense irritability and diminished control of reason over feeling; of the female patient, whose world, in an inability like the other sex, to look abroad for objects of excitement and occupation, has necessarily been much confined within the limits of her parlor and chamber, under any addition of irritation from deprivation of accustomed objects of comfort or even luxury?

In diseases whose pathology is so obscure, whose medical treatment is so uncertain and unfixed as those of which insanity is the prominent symptom, while the moral treatment is universally agreed upon, nothing however insignificant of what is sure, ought to be overlooked or neglected. In establishing a hospital for the insane, we select a site where nature presents herself in her most pleasing aspect;—where cultivation and the arts bring their aid, so that mingled repose and activity shall calm the excited, divert the deluded and arouse the apathetic;—where nothing dark, repulsive or monotonous shall furnish food or allow space for the operations of morbid and

perverted sensibilities. We conceal with great cost and care, as far as possible, every appearance of the restraints which some forms of disease may render indispensable;—we classify together those whose mutual influences and hourly attrition will excite pleasing and healthy emotions in each other's minds;—we surround them with attendants, not merely faithful, but intelligent and amiable. Why all this? because experience has shown that without the gradual, continuous aid of these numerous circumstances, in all chronic forms, the means and appliances of the pharmacopeia are powerless.

In concluding this annual record, marking as it does one of those swiftly passing periods, so minute in the age of an institution, but so wide in the little section of middle life, alone equal to duties like these, I shall be pardoned for my never omitted, because never forgotten tribute of gratitude and confidence towards those associated with me, in this arduous and responsible field. Now on this tenth year of my connexion with the Asylum, I look back with pleasure upon a harmony with the excellent Steward and Matron, never interrupted for a moment of this period, having enjoyed in their faithful discharge of the many duties connected with the financial and domestic arrangements of this large household, with wants multifarious and requiring the utmost discrimination, not more assistance than in their still longer experience, sympathy and judgment in all points connected with the insane and the friends interested in them. I recognise, too the same Supervisors who were associated with my predecessor, whose coöperation in all things I can pay no higher tribute to, than I have just done in a single point. With such adjuvants as these, with an immediate medical assistant, selected some years since for his tried fitness in other respectable institutions of the kind, fully verified here, with your constant support and countenance, as well as your never declined provision of every means, regardless of cost, which would enable the ends of the institu-

tion to be carried onward to a higher point, with all deserved approbation of the profession and the community, I have ever felt that no ordinary responsibilities rested upon me as the administrator of such extensive opportunities of good to the insane. No one could have felt more overpoweringly than I have, the need of an intellectual vigor and discrimination which should never collapse, physical strength and health which should never flag, and a faith which should never fail, to sustain a post like this.

LUTHER V. BELL,

Physician and Superintendent.

McLEAN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, }
Somerville, January 1, 1846. }

REPORT

OF THE

STEWARD OF THE McLEAN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,
FOR THE YEAR 1845.

The following are balances of the several accounts :

Stores,	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$11,159 67
Fuel,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,137 63
Stationery,	-	-	-	-	-	-	75 50
Wages,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,514 11
Medicine,	-	-	-	-	-	-	322 62
Contingencies,	-	-	-	-	-	-	651 14
Furniture,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,989 25
Repairs,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,252 02
Improvements,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,034 77
Diversions,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,344 61
Library,	-	-	-	-	-	-	135 33
							<hr/>
							\$23,616 65
Deduct Farm, Garden, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,211 80
							<hr/>
							\$22,404 85
Add Salaries,	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,700 00
							<hr/>
							\$26,104 85
							<hr/>

COLUMBUS TYLER, *Steward.*

McLean Asylum,
Jan'y 1, 1846.

A P P E N D I X .

DIRECTIONS FOR THE ADMISSION OF PATIENTS.

Applications for the admission of patients to the McLean Asylum for the Insane, may be made to either of the Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, or to Dr. BELL, Physician and Superintendent, at the Asylum in Somerville, a mile and a half from the City of Boston. If the application is made by letter, it should be directed to him through the Post Office at Somerville.

By a recent vote of the Trustees, the lowest rate for patients, without reference to the fact whether they are or are not residents of Massachusetts, is fixed at three dollars per week. Where the pecuniary ability is such as to make a higher rate fair and equitable, it is proportionably increased.

The blank forms requisite for admission will be furnished on application as above. They consist of a certificate from a regular physician that the patient is insane, a request for admission signed by the nearest relative or guardian, a bond with conditions to pay the rate fixed, to remove the patient when discharged, &c. &c., to be signed by one responsible person as principal, and another as guarantee. Evidence of such responsibility from strangers is expected.

Patients are not received for a shorter period than three months, unless sooner recovered, in which event they are charged only for actual residence.

It is also considered as a part of the covenant, that patients are to be visited only at the discretion of the Superintendent, because visits of friends occasionally do great mischief to curable patients, and if repeated at pleasure, destroy all chance of recovery. Patients whose residence is merely custodial, are always allowed to be visited by near friends, or such other persons as can with propriety desire to see them.

As the Asylum is usually full, or nearly so, it is desirable that some notice should be given of the intention to place patients under its care, previously to their being sent from home. This, however, is not necessary in the case of patients recently seized, where every week's delay is of high importance.

By a regulation of the Trustees, no visits to the Asylum are permitted on Sundays. It would also be a great convenience to the Superintendent, if calls to see and inquire respecting patients were made, as far as practicable, on the afternoons of Wednesday and Saturday.

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1846.

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April, - - -	" J. A. LOWELL and ROGERS.
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June, - - - -	" HOOPER and BOWDITCH.
July, - - - -	" BOWDITCH and STEVENSON.
August, - - -	" STEVENSON and LAMB.
September, - -	" LAMB and ANDREWS.
October, - - -	" ANDREWS and STONE.
November, - -	" STONE and WIGGLESWORTH.
December, - -	" WIGGLESWORTH and DEXTER.
January, - - -	" DEXTER and AMORY.



"I have a plan for the 'Towns' improvement."

